

2005 NOAA Fisheries Employee of the Year Nomination Narrative

Nominee's Full Name:

Ann A. Byar

Category for which Nominated:

Program Employees – Management/Scientific/Technical

GS 11-15; WG and Demo Pay Band Equivalents

As the Northwest Fisheries Science Center's Safety & Environmental Compliance Officer, Ann Byar has provided outstanding leadership and contributions to improve safety programs for Northwest Fisheries Science Center staff, in addition to overall contributions to the NOAA Safety Program during FY 2005. Her distinctive work in aquaculture safety issues, mold spores testing, occupational health & safety issues within fisheries laboratories (and recently developing a Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure Control Plan) has resulted in her being considered one of NOAA's experts on these topics. Her contributions over the year have been many, and include:

- ❖ Developing and delivering safety training courses for various NOAA program staff, covering a range of safety topics:
 - Laboratory Safety Training
 - Hazard Communication Training
 - Respiratory Protection Awareness Training and fit-testing
 - GVP Powered Air Purifying Respirator Training
 - Radiation Safety and Radiation Refresher Training for laboratory staff
 - Radioactive Material Transportation Training
 - Formaldehyde Training
- ❖ Working with outside vendors to deliver the following safety training to NOAA staff:
 - Ergonomics
 - Back Safety Training
 - Defensive Driving for Government Employees
 - Forklift Training
 - Lock Out Tag Out Training
 - Assist in band saw training and fall protection training
- ❖ Special safety contributions during FY 2005 included:
 - Remediation of Mold --- Egg Incubation Room, Sockeye Hatchery
 - Remediation of manganese accumulation in bio-rings ---Degassing tower at Burley Creek
 - Remediation of lead-based paint --- Building 4 in Manchester
 - Mold remediation plan for Pt. Adams field station garage
 - Coordinated the development of an air handler muffler for noise reduction ---trailer Annex A
 - Mold investigation and remediation oversight --- trailer Annex A
 - Maintaining the OSHA 300 log and posting the OSHA 300A for the first time in Center history (an OSHA requirement previously provided sporadically by Sand Point)
 - Conducted a small boat (R/V KETA) accident investigation and drafted report
 - Leading several environmental release reporting exercises and follow-up actions
 - Developing the Center's Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure Control Plan
 - Working with the NOAA National Safety Program to ensure Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure Control Plan could be adopted by other NOAA programs
 - Providing Blood Hazard Awareness Training to Point Adams Field Station personnel

Ann was instrumental in helping coordinate the revision of Emergency / Hazard Communications Plans for all six NWFSC research sites. Ann also developed a 5-year update of the Center's Pollution Prevention Plan, new radiological receipt procedures/training for authorized users, and made two separate safety presentations (Indoor Air Quality and Mold and Health and Safety in Aquaculture) to senior NOAA staff and state regulators.

In addition to the above accomplishments, Ann helped coordinate five other safety improvement projects for the Center during the year. She also conducted three different critical safety surveys, and developed a new research safety tool for assessing field safety needs. In addition to the above activities, Ann found the time to improve her own skills through training in Radiation Safety, NMFS Accident Investigation, OSHA Accident Investigation, Department of Transportation shipping safety, and Emergency Responder Training. Ann's work has always been outstanding, and her collegial manner has helped spread the safety message throughout NOAA.